

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

OMB-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 FBO-02 /098 W

----- 098920

O 181245Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4144

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

CINCLANT FOR POLAD PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 1352

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN LOURENCO MARQUES - SITREP AS OF 1430

 HOURS LOCAL

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 1351 (NOTAL)

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QM HEAVY FIRING BROKE OUT VICINITY MUNICIPAL PALACE IN DOWNTOWN

LOURENCO MARQUES AT 0915 HOURS DECEMBER 18 FOLLOWING AFTERNOON AND NIGHT OF TENSION CAUSED BY HEAVY TROOP MOVEMENTS AND PUNCTUATED BY SPORADIC BUT OCCASIONALLY HEAVY GUNFIRE. THIS MORNING'S FIRING LASTED THIRTY MINUTES.

2. PRESS AND RADIO MORNING DECEMBER 18 CARRIED BRIEF STORY STATING "BAND OF REACTIONARY ELEMENTS, UNIFORMED AND ARMED, UNLEASHED AN ARMED PROVOCATION AGAINST ARMED FORCES, POLICE, MILITARY POLICE AND POPULATION OF CAPITAL. WITH SUPPORT OF POPULAR MASSES, ARMED FORCES AND PARAMILITARY FORCES TOOK ACTION TO NEUTRALIZE AND CAPTURE THE CRIMINALS. SITUATION WAS RETURNING TO NORMAL AT 0100 DECEMBER 18. NUMEROUS ELEMENTS WERE CAPTURED AND OTHERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED."

3. ANNOU CEMENT PROMISED FORTHCOMING COMMUNIQUEJN WHICH NOT YET DELIVERED AND WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THIS MORNING'S EVENTS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER CHIASSANO CALLED PERSONALLY AT 1000 HOURS TO ASK THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL GO HOME AND STAY THERE FOR REASONS OF SAFETY. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING ALL EMBASSIES WITH SAME REQUEST.

5. CHIASSANO SAID GPRM HAD SITUATION UNDER GENERAL CONTROL, BUT THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME GROUPS THAT WERE CAPABLE OF CAUSING FURTHER TROUBLE AND THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES. HE SAID THAT SINCE HE COULD NOT FORETELL WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE NECESSARY NOR WHERE THEY MIGHT TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING IF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WERE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE AND HE WAS HOPING TO AVOID THAT.

6. CHIASSANO WOULD NOT IDENTIFY GROUPS OTHER THAN TO CALL THEM "REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS".

7. ACTIVITY SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN WITH MINOR DISTURBANCES AND SOME FIRING SHORTLY BEFORE NOON DEC. 17 NEAR BENFICA, TOWNSHIP NORTHWEST OF LOURENCO MARQUES. POPULACE BECAME AWARE OF UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES IN MID-AFTERNOON, AS TROOPS ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, MACHINE GUNS AND ROCKETS TOOK UP POSITIONS AROUND MILITARY, POLICE AND OTHER SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RADIO CLUBE DE MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE SZPTEMBER 1974 INDICENTS TOOK PLACE. MANY TRUCKLOADS OF TROOPS WERE SENT NORTH OF CITY TOWARD BENFICA AND MATOLA. AIRPORT CLOSED, BUT OPENED AGAIN THIS MORNING.

8. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW JHO "REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS" ARE, WIDE-SPREAD SPECULATION IS THAT THEY ARE MILITARY AND POLICE DIS-SIDENTS. WE HAD BEEN HEARING FOR WEEK OR TWO OF SIMILAR

TROUBLE IN BEIRA, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE CONFIRM EVEN WITH
RECENT FOREIGN VISITORS THERE.

9. IF ABOVE SPECULATION ACCURATE, EVENTS COULD HAVE BEEN
SPARKED BY WEEKEND OF HARSH CRITICISM AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF
STIFF REFORMS OF MILITARY AND POLICE BY PRESIDENT MACHEL ON
WHICH WE HAVE JUST PREPARED AIRGRAM AND TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.
IN VIEW CURRENT EVENTS, WE ARE TRANSMITTING FULL TEXT SEPTEL.
ARENALES

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